EXCISE (154)

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 01611 121614Z
ACTION NEA-11
INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 INR-10 EUR-12 SS-15 OIC-02 CIAE-00
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY J.L. DATE 9/30/82
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☒
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☐
RELEASE DENIED ☐ in part
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS B-1

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 1611
E.O. 12065: GDS 6/12/87 (EAGLETON, WILLIAM L.) OR-M
TAGS: PEPR, IS, IZ
SUBJ: BAGHDAD REPORT JUNE 12
1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT
2. BAGHDAD IS ON ITS USUAL QUIET FRIDAY SCHEDULE WITH STREETS EMPTY AND GOVERNMENT OFFICES CLOSED. ANOTHER BATCH OF WESTERN MEDIA REPS CAME IN LAST NIGHT; THE DISAPPEARANCE OF TWO NBC TV CREW MEMBERS THE NIGHT BEFORE (BRITISH AND AUSTRALIAN) WAS EXPLAINED WHEN WE LEARNED THAT THEY HAD BEEN PICKED UP BY SECURITY POLICE AT THE TUWAITHA FRENCH CAMP POSING AS FRENCH
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TECHNICIANS. IT IS LIKELY THAT THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION WILL GET THEM OUT OF JAIL, AND PROBABLY OUT OF IRAQ, TODAY OR TOMORROW.

3. BAGHDAD MEDIA COVERAGE OF YESTERDAY'S ARAB LEAGUE FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING EMPHASIZES THE ADOPTION OF THE "IRAQI PAPER". WESTERN JOURNALISTS SEEM TO BE SURPRISED BY THE RELATIVE MODERATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS CONTAINED THEREIN. IRAQ'S REPUTATION AS AN EXTREMIST COUNTRY GOVERNED BY WILD MEN DIES HARD. LONGER TERM OBSERVERS HERE ARE NOT SURPRISED THAT IRAQ'S RESPONSE TO THE RAID HAS BEEN RELATIVELY RESTRAINED. IRAQ HAS BEEN SEEKING MIDDLE GROUND, CONCENSUS TYPE POSITIONS IN ARAB COUNCILS FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS AT LEAST.

4. AS ATTENTION SHIFTS TO THE UNSC MEETING IN NEW YORK WE ANTICIPATE THAT THE IRAQI POSITION WILL REMAIN THAT OF A RATIONAL AND RESPONSIBLE VICTIM OF AGGRESSION. ALGERIAN (AND TUNISIAN?) FOREIGN MINISTERS IN NEW YORK,

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IRAQ'S HAMMADI WILL PUT MAXIMUM PRESSURE ON THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, PARTICULARLY THE U.S., TO MAKE ISRAEL PAY A POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND MORAL PRICE OF ITS ATTACK.

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